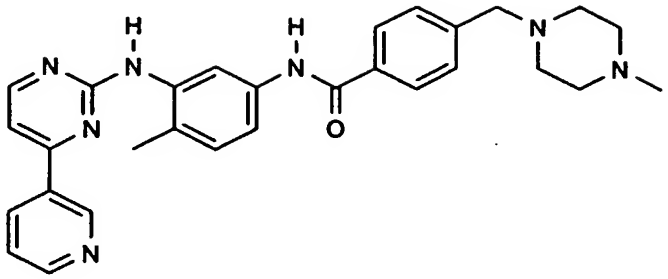
Claims:

1. Use of imatinib of the formula I



(I)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of cancer expressing breast cancer resistance protein (BCRP).

2. Use of imatinib of the formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of a cancer over-expressing breast cancer resistance protein (BCRP).

3. Use of imatinib of the formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof for the manufacture of a medicament for inhibiting breast cancer resistance protein (BCRP).

4. Use of imatinib of formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof for the manufacture of a medicament to prevent or reverse resistance to an anticancer agent of a cancer that expresses BCRP in a human subject having said cancer.

5. Use of imatinib of formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof for the manufacture of a medicament for improving the absorption of an orally-administered anticancer agent.

6. Use of imatinib of formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof for the manufacture of a medicament for improving the absorption of an orally-administered anticancer agent by inhibiting BCRP in a patient having a cancer.

7. Use according to claim 4, 5 or 6 wherein the anticancer agent is an anthracycline cytotoxic agent or a campothecin-derived topoisomerase I inhibitor.

8. Use according to claim 7 wherein the anticancer agent is selected from the group comprising mitoxanthrone, doxorubicin, topotecan, irinotecan also referred as CTP-11, 7-ethyl-10-hydroxycamptothecin also referred as SN-38, 9-amino-campthThecin, 9-nitrocamptothecin, lurtotecan, diflomotecan, BAY38-3441, 7-(2-trimethylsilyl)ethylcamptothecin also referred as BNP1350, 10-hydroxy-7-t-butyldimethylsilylcamptothecin also referred as DB67, CT2016, DE310, T-0128 and PROTHECAN.

9. Use according to claim 8 wherein the anticancer agent is selected from the group comprising of topotecan, irinotecan, SN-38, mitoxanthrone and doxorubicin.

10. Use according to any one of claims 1 to 6 wherein imatinib is in the form of the mesylate salt.

11. Method of treating a cancer that expresses BCRP in a human subject, which comprises administering a therapeutically effective amount of an anticancer agent and an effective BCRP-inhibiting amount of imatinib or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

12. Use according any one of claims 1 to 4 and 6 wherein the cancer is selected from the group comprising colon cancer, breast cancer, liver cancer, ovarian cancer, fibrosarcoma, myeloma, acute myeloid leukemia (AML), gastric cancer and non-small cell lung cancer